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TWO COVINGTON COUNTY CEMETERIES ADDED TO ALABAMA HISTORIC CEMETERY REGISTER

The Alabama Historical Commission recently added Beda Cemetery in Beda and Butler Cemetery near Rose Hill to the Alabama Historic Cemetery Register.

“The cemetery register is a prestigious listing of historic cemeteries in Alabama,” said Lee Anne Wofford, cemetery program coordinator. “The AHC considers the notable historic cemeteries in this register to be particularly worthy of preservation and appreciation, and therefore deserving of this special recognition.”

There are now four cemeteries in Covington County on the Alabama Historic Cemetery Register, which features 237 cemeteries statewide.

The first marked burial in Beda Cemetery is that of Mary A. Thompson, who died May 15, 1892. The cemetery is associated with Beda Missionary Baptist Church (formerly New Providence Missionary Baptist Church), which was constituted in 1883 and is still active today. It includes the remains of soldiers from the Civil War to Vietnam, and contains well over 500 burials.

Butler Cemetery is a small family cemetery that contains both marked and unmarked burials. The earliest known burial is that of Tempie E. Butler, who died March 20, 1874. The latest burial was that of Mr. Wililam Loyd Butler, who died in 1935.

The Alabama Historical Commission administers the Alabama Historic Cemetery Program that gives aid to the general public, government officials, civic groups, and others in identifying, documenting, registering, and conserving Alabama’s historic cemeteries.

The Alabama Historic Cemetery Register officially recognizes and honors family and community cemeteries that were established at least 40 years ago.

Listing in the state cemetery register is an honorary designation imposing no restrictions on property owners. State law protects all cemeteries from willful desecration and destruction.

To protect, preserve, and interpret Alabama’s historic places is the mission of the Alabama Historical Commission, Alabama’s state agency for historic preservation.

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